

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 24, 2014

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Governor Takes Action on Transportation-Related Legislation

July 14 was Governor Nixon's constitutional deadline for taking action on legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2014 legislative season. Some of the legislative action has an impact on MoDOT or transportation in Missouri, and includes the following:

Emergency Permits: On July 3, Gov. Nixon signed HB 1190 into law. HB 1190 relates to facilitating rapid response to disasters and includes the provision requiring MoDOT to issue emergency utility response permits that allow motor carriers to transport equipment and the infrastructure necessary for repair work immediately following a disaster where utility service has been disrupted. "Under exigent circumstances, verbal approval of the operation may be made by the motor carrier compliance supervisor or other designated motor carrier services representative." The legislation simply puts MoDOT's Motor Carrier Services Division's current practice into law. HB 1190 goes into effect Aug. 28, 2014.



Aviation Trust Fund: On June 30, Gov. Nixon signed SB 818, sponsored by Sen. Mike Kehoe (R-Jefferson City). SB 818 expands how the aviation trust funds can be used to include airport business plans and strategic plans. This act also lowers the threshold of required deposits from \$6 million to \$4.5 million in order to spend money for the study or promotion of expanded domestic, international, or intrastate commercial service, the promotion of aviation in the state, or assisting airport sponsors participating in a federally funded air service program supporting intrastate scheduled commercial service. This lowered threshold is restricted by permitting no more than \$2 million to be spent for the above purposes and at least \$4 million must be used for other purposes allowable under the law. The provisions are also contained in HB 2141 signed by Gov. Nixon on July 7. SB 818 goes into effect Aug. 28, 2014.

Increased Truck Weights: On July 8, Gov. Nixon vetoed two different legislative proposals that would increase the allowable truck weights for livestock haulers from 80,000 lbs. to 85,500 lbs., except for the interstate and highways of defense systems. The increased weight limit proposals were included in two separate omnibus bills that were vetoed for other reasons. The bills vetoed were SB 506 and HB 1326 relating to captive deer. During session, MoDOT opposed this legislation because this increased weight of 5,500 lbs. could accelerate the wear and tear on many state roads and bridges.

Omnibus Highway Naming: This year's annual highway/memorial designation legislation was included in HB 1866. HB 1866 was sponsored by Rep. Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan) and originally designated only a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in Cole County as the "Billy Dean Robinett Memorial Highway" but was

expanded to include the following designations:

- A portion of Route U in Washington County as the "SGM Patrick R. Hurley Memorial Highway"
- A portion of Route U in Washington County as the "Thomas Wesley Benoist Memorial Highway"
- A bridge on Route 5 in Laclede County as the "James R. Ledbetter Memorial Bridge"
- A bridge on Route N in Franklin County as the "Marc Perez Memorial Bridge"
- A bridge on Route 185 in Franklin County as the "James K. Schatz Memorial Bridge"
- A portion of I-49 in Newton County as the "James B. Tatum Highway"
- A portion of I-55 in St. Louis County as the "Police Officer Steven Jarvis Memorial Highway"
- A bridge on East Stadium Drive in Jackson County as the "Len Dawson Bridge"
- A portion of Highway 60 in Wright County as the "Spc. Justin Blake Carter Memorial Highway for Life"
- A bridge on Route 160 in Ozark County as the "Barney Douglas (The Citizen) Memorial Bridge"
- A portion of U.S. Route 54 in Audrain County as the "Officer Orville Rosenstengel Memorial Highway," and
- All of U.S. Route 54 from the Kansas/Missouri border to the Illinois/Missouri border as "Discover More on Route 54."

HB 1866 goes into effect on Aug. 28.

New Railway at SEMO Port Dedicated

by Linda Wilson Horn

The Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Regional Port Authority in Scott City recently celebrated the completion of the North Tracks project, a new railway within the port complex. MoDOT Director Dave Nichols, Southeast Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler and Senior Multimodal Operations Specialist Bryan Ross participated in the July 15 ribbon cutting ceremony.

The North Tracks project installed four track switches and 2,606

feet of additional track siding. It will directly serve SEMO Milling, one of six companies located at SEMO Port. The approximately \$650,000 project used General Revenue with funding from the Delta Regional Authority and the SEMO port. The SEMO port, strategically located along the Mississippi River halfway between St. Louis and Memphis, has shipped more tonnage than any Missouri public port in the last 10 years.

Prior to the ceremony, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols had the opportunity to operate Engine 8334, a General Motors GP-10 (1850 horsepower) locomotive. This engine is used to pull freight within the port complex. See a photo of Dave running the train on the Southeast District's Connections Page - [SE District](#).



Southeast Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler, on left train, and Director Dave Nichols, on center train, participated in the July 15 ribbon cutting ceremony along with SEMO port officials, local businesses and local and state agencies.

CONNECT WITH YOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE

?

EAC

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t...you’re right.”

~Henry Ford

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

Team Talk

by Roberta Broecker

As we close in on the final days before Missourians vote on Constitutional Amendment 7, I’ve been thinking about how we function as department and what our future holds. We are an agency that has learned from our past. And we understand the value, the necessity of moving forward and always planning for the future. We understand the impact our actions have on every single person in this state.

Earlier this week, someone told me about a 93-year-old man who called the customer service center, wanting some information on our neighboring states’ sales and fuel taxes. He was concerned, he said, about conversations he’d heard at the facility where he lives, and letters to the editor he’d seen in the paper.

“People don’t have the right information,” he said. He wanted to know for himself just where Missouri falls in comparison to every state that touches our border. That way, he could “set the record straight.”

This man has lived almost as long as MoDOT has been in existence. He told customer service he didn’t drive anymore, but that didn’t matter. He wanted to be informed, and he was willing to reach out, ask questions, and find out the facts so he could make the best decision for Missouri.

Will he vote yes on Aug. 5? I don’t know. But that call reminds me how important our work is. It matters to and registers with people – even those who have earned the right to sit back, relax, and let someone else worry about the future.

In less than two weeks, we’ll know the result of the vote on Amendment 7. We may get a boost in transportation funding that will allow for safety improvements, projects that will grow the economy, needed repairs to our roads and bridges and funding for the other types of transportation like transit. Without it, we know we’ll keep focusing on what we’ve been doing: maintaining what we have, keeping people safe, and providing great customer service. I could not be more proud of our achievements. I know the 5,100 MoDOT employees that blanket the state come to work committed to doing a good job for every traveler in our state, every day. Thank you.

Service Awards!

MoDOT Service Awards Program 2014

Attention 2014 Service Award Recipients!

The Service Award Vendor has mailed your brochure packet with the gifts you are eligible to receive. Please keep your eyes open for this packet to arrive at your home address. Instructions for placing your order will be included in the packet.

Where's Baby

by Patrick Wood

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash-related fatalities for children. From 1998 to 2013, 606 children died due to heatstroke. Of these fatalities 52 percent were forgotten in the vehicle. These deaths could have been prevented.

It is important to know that a child's body temperature can heat up three to five times faster than an adult. If their core temperature reaches 107 it can become lethal. At an outside temperature of 80 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle can be deadly in a matter of minutes. Heatstroke isn't only associated with the warm temperatures of spring and summer. It can occur at temperatures as low as 57 degrees. The temperature inside a vehicle can heat up by 20 degrees in 10 minutes, and rolling the windows down or parking in the shade does little to help cool the vehicle off in these conditions.

While no parent wants to think a tragedy such as this could happen to them, preventable accidents occur. In 2013, there were 44 children that died of heatstroke in the United States. To prevent heatstroke inside a car remember:

- Never leave a child alone in a parked car.
- Always look in both the front and back seat when you leave the vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle doors and the keys out of a child's reach to ensure they cannot accidentally trap themselves inside the vehicle.

Whether dropping off a child is part of a daily routine or something only done occasionally, there are some simple steps to help remember that a child is in the vehicle.

- Place an item that you need for your destination next to the car seat.
- Call your spouse after you drop the child off and have them contact you if they don't receive your call to ensure you don't forget.
- Have the daycare call you if your child does not show up.



Fatality Update



What's Happening



Updated Traffic Volume Maps Available Online

MoDOT's 2013 Traffic Volume Map is now available at <http://www.modot.org/safety/trafficvolumemaps.htm>.

The map shows traffic volumes on MoDOT's system of more than 33,000 miles. The map is updated every three years.

You can view the statewide map or a breakdown of each of the seven district areas. Customers who do not have access to a computer can request a printed copy through MoDOT's Customer Service, 1-888-ASK-MODOT or online at http://www.modot.org/asp/request_information.shtml?comments.htm.

Deferred Compensation Update



July’s update from the Deferred Compensation Program takes a closer look to see how Missouri savers are using the deferred compensation plan.

While everyone's situation is different, understanding how your co-workers are using the plan might just inspire important adjustments to your own savings strategy – [Deferred Comp](#)



EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's June meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [June 2014 Meeting Highlights](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



More on Preventative Care

Coventry Health Care encourages members to receive vaccines to prevent disease. Check out the flier on the Central Office page of connections for a table of recommended adult vaccines – [CO Page](#).

July Retirements

Kathy M. Brown – NW - 28 years
Vyrila D. England – KC - 14 years
Randall D. Newkirk – KC – 31 years
Michaeline J. Frey – CD - 14 years
Harold R. Baumgartner – CD - 15 years

Gerald B. Poulin – CD - 22 years
Martin D. Connell – SL - 8 years
Deborah K. Hackmann – SL - 12 years
Sheryl J. Nolker – SL - 23 years
James C. Mezel – SW - 24 years

Patricia L. Miller –SE - 19 years
Alberta M. Green – SE – 22 years
Johnny L. Davis – SE - 23 years
Rockey L. Martin – SE - 29 years

In Memoriam

James Mettlach
former D7 – June 21
Lawrence Kemper
former D7 – June 22
William Blair
former D5 – June 22
Charles Newton
former D2 – June 24
Dougald White
former D5 – June 29
Susan Marshall
SW District – June 29

Edward Andrews
former D8 – June 30
Eugene Haug
former D3 – July 1
Denzil Wright
former D8 – July 3
Mildred Tunnell
CO – July 3
Lyman Fowler
former 10 – July 4
Marvin Campbell
former D8 – July 6

Donald Anders
CO – July 8
Bonnie Richards
CO – July 9
Glennon Carron
former D10 – July 14
James Maasen
former D5 – July 14
Roberta “Jean” Endsley
CO – July 18

*Information Provided and
Paid for by*



David B. Nichols, Director
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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July Health & Safety Tips *Backing Safely*

The most effective way to avoid a backing incident is: **DON'T BACK UP!** Plan your exit when you arrive to avoid future backing. Pull-through or park on the curb when possible. Only back up when you have no other choice.

Nationally backing accidents are very common, but usually avoidable when using a spotter. Often in these situations either the driver did not know someone was behind the vehicle, or the driver lost sight of the spotter. Here are a few highlights on how to safely work with a spotter as the driver of a vehicle and to safely be a spotter for a driver:

- Hold daily safety discussions with all involved employees to outline and review the procedures and safety items required for the tasks assigned.
- Ensure that spotters and drivers agree on hand signals before backing up.
- Minimize, to the extent possible, work that must be done by workers on foot near moving vehicles and equipment.
- Define blind spots and prohibit employees on foot from entering these areas.
- All vehicle and equipment operators/drivers, upon entering the work area, should look for an available person to spot for them. If a spotter is not readily available, they should try to find someone to spot for them.
- Spotters should be designated and advised to look at the side mirrors of the backing vehicle or equipment. If they cannot see the driver in one of the side mirrors, they are in a blind spot.
- The equipment or vehicle operator/driver and spotter shall maintain continuous visual and verbal contact.
- If the vehicle or equipment operator/driver loses sight of or communication with the spotter, they **SHALL STOP IMMEDIATELY!**
- Operators and drivers shall always obey the signal of the spotter and never back up or move in congested areas without the spotter indicating the path is clear.
- Vehicles and equipment operators/drivers shall have the windows rolled down.
- Neither the vehicle or equipment operator/driver, nor the spotter, shall be speaking on, texting with or otherwise operating or viewing a cell phone or other personal data device.
- The spotter shall stand alone. If the spotter is in conversation with another person, the driver shall **STOP**.
- The spotter shall be aware of the area's hazards for the vehicle/equipment they are spotting, including but not limited to: overhead obstacles, items that could be in the line of impact (buildings, vehicles, trees, etc.), soft ground, ditches/trenches, slopes, etc.
- Spotters must always be aware of the terrain/trip hazards, being careful not to lose their footing.
- Employees on foot shall maintain a safe minimum distance between themselves and the moving vehicles and equipment.
- The spotter shall always have an escape route.
- The spotter shall be wearing MoDOT approved high visibility safety apparel and a hard hat in accordance with Safety Policies 1.0 and 1.6.
- During nighttime spotting operations, in addition to the standard Class III reflective clothing, the spotter shall use a flashlight.



If you haven't seen July's Back to Basic's Safety video on backing safety, check it out - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLTy6RpkcsI&feature=youtu.be>

Vaccines Aren't Just for Kids



Coventry Health Care encourages members to receive vaccines to prevent disease. Vaccines can prevent both serious diseases and the more common ones, such as influenza, that can lead to complications. Members who get certain vaccines through network providers will have no cost share, meaning they will receive them without having to pay a copay, coinsurance or deductible. Click on the flier to see a table of recommended adult vaccines - [Flier](#).

Is Your Work Area Secure from Theft?

by Tim Taylor

Thefts in the workplace, like most thefts, are crimes of opportunity. Whether the items taken are relatively inexpensive or more valuable, stealing is stealing.



If someone is thinking about stealing they generally will not go to the trouble to break open a locked drawer or overhead compartment in a workplace setting because they are more likely to be caught. Taking just a moment to ensure items and confidential/sensitive documents are locked up when you are away from your desk for a short or long period of time can go a long way in preventing theft.

In the event you discover items missing, please don't delay reporting or decide the items aren't valuable enough to bother reporting.

Thanks for your help to keep our workplace secure.

Central Office Happenings



Diversity Education Event

Introduction to Deaf Culture and American Sign Language
July 31

9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Conference Room 100, Central Office

Participants will receive two hours of LMS Credit.

To register for this class go to the LMS student center and register with course code 24287 – [LMS Student Center](#) (employees only).

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Blueprint For Baseball

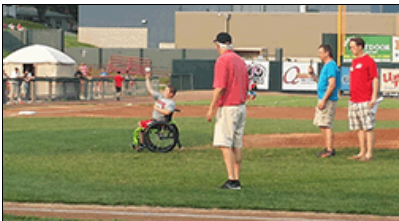
The Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsored the St. Joseph Mustangs baseball team this season. The team is part of the MINK league and is made up of college players from around the country. This year had the largest attendance of any Mustangs season so far, and the NW Coalition had the opportunity to educate all the attendees about roadway safety. As part of the sponsorship, we were able to set up a table display at four games throughout the season. We chose to focus on a different aspect of traffic safety each game: seatbelt safety, distracted driving, impaired driving and child passenger safety.

At our most recent game we focused on child passenger safety. This was also the last game of the season and a sell-out crowd. A local crash survivor, eight year-old Kaleb, threw out the first pitch from his wheelchair. While he's beginning to walk a bit, the incident three years ago left him mostly in a wheelchair.

Kaleb, then five, was sleeping in the back seat, not in a child safety seat, when the car in which he was riding was involved in a crash. Ray Staggs, an emergency room trauma nurse who works on the NW Coalition, has stayed in contact with the family and was the one who contacted them to participate in Coalition events at the game. Kaleb's parents agreed right away, as they're always willing to talk about child passenger safety and the impact the crash had on their family's life.



Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen, Emergency Room Nurse Rachel Marmaud and Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell manned the table on Child Passenger Safety Night at the Mustangs game.



Crash survivor Kaleb throws out the ceremonial first pitch at the July 19 Mustangs game. Mark Sonnenmoser, an emergency room nurse, spoke about the importance of child passenger safety after Kaleb's first pitch.



Children of all ages tried their hand at the new Buckle Up! Arrive Alive! ball toss at each Mustangs game. Several kids came back multiple times over several games to give it a try. Everyone who tried was asked about their buckling up habits and given a prize for always buckling up.



Mustangs General Manager Ky Turner even took a break from his game day duties to try his hand at the ball toss. St. Joseph Health Department's Stephanie Malita and St. Joseph Safety and Health Council's Sue Lober (not pictured) helped at several games with the ball toss activity.

Northwest District Accepts The Corporate

Challenge

Heartland Wellness Connections is sponsoring this year's Corporate Challenge in St. Joseph. After a couple years' absence to recover from flag football and kickball injuries, the Northwest District team is back! While we may not always win, it's a great time for employees to get together outside work, socialize with each other, meet employees from other companies around town, and just have a great time. Many thanks go to Senior Information Systems Technologist Dave Earls for coordinating this year's team.



Maintenance Crew Leader Kevin Lytton, Seasonal Maintenance Worker Mindy Marsh and Senior Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache working together at the volleyball event.



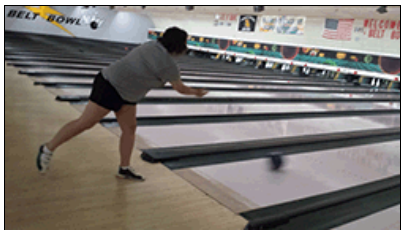
Senior Highway Designer Mike Mooney and Highway Designer Josshe Palm wait for their turn at miniature golf against a team from Boehringer Ingelheim.



Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell lines up her shot in the dart tournament.



Senior Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache watches as Senior Information Systems Technologist Dave Earls putts through the Eiffel Tower.



Senior Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache's daughter Jessica helped fill in on the bowling team.



Senior Highway Designer Jeff Burns plays in the pool tournament.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Northeast District

Certified to Help Save Lives



Nine people from northeast Missouri became certified child passenger safety technicians last week after training in Kirksville.

Last week the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsored a child passenger seat technician class at the Kirksville Fire Department. Through this class, nine individuals from various counties around the district, became certified CPS technicians. Kathy Zents and Joe Schilling, certified trainers, were the instructors.

"This course entails so much more than simply installing child safety seats," Zents explained. "Participants learned about topics ranging from motor vehicle laws, crash dynamics and vehicle safety, to talking to parents about safety," she added.

They also participated in hands on demonstrations throughout the class.

A child seat check event was held at the conclusion of the class, and several area families came in to have their child seats checked.

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Around the District...



Safety Town was held at Macon Vo-Tech school. Pictured above is Tim Conover, from Macon maintenance, and Kevin Rhodes (as Buckles), a Northeast Coalition outreach coordinator, presenting safety information to the kids.



KTVO, along with the other sponsors of the Just Drive campaign, held a Safety Day on July 21 in Kirksville. The MSHP was present with the seat belt convincer. Child safety seat demonstrations were given, and hot dogs and soda were provided. Pictured here is an individual trying out the fatal vision goggles.





Macon Maintenance received a new motor grader. Pictured here are employees getting the run down on the new equipment.

Barge vs. Bridge...Who Wins? A barge broke loose and became stuck under the railroad bridge just south of Champ Clark Bridge in Pike County.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

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Kansas City District

Applicants Imagine Themselves Wearing MoDOT's Boots

Ronald Payne and James Taylor III came early to the Boots on the Ground presentation at Memorial Baptist Church in Hickman Mills Tuesday night. They were among 50 hoping to fill up to 100 open positions for MoDOT seasonal maintenance workers. They listened for a while, then left.

Anthony Patterson, however, stayed for the full 90 minutes. And so did most of the others.

Payne, 27, of Kansas City, and Taylor, 25, of Grandview, may have been looking for something different than what MoDOT was offering. Patterson however, a 52 year old restaurant manager from Kansas City, was highly receptive to MoDOT's message: These 100 positions are a foot in the door to a career at MoDOT. The work is hard, and the emphasis is on safety, teamwork and serving the community.

As MoDOT District Maintenance Engineer Jesse Skinner told the gathering, those elements are fundamental to MoDOT's mission, and at the end of the day, you may be tired and dirty, but you can look back on what you accomplished and think, "I did something that was important today."

Patterson said he is looking for just this kind of opportunity, "Something steady, where I can make a difference."

MoDOT Maintenance Superintendent Marcus Slaughter told the group in more detail just what they might expect to do if selected to work for MoDOT. Mowing, plowing snow, clearing debris from ditches and drains, patching potholes, something different each day, and very little of it indoors.

"We're looking for people who are motivated . . . who enjoy working outdoors," Slaughter said.

MoDOT District Human Resources Manager Deborah Hogan explained the application process, the need to be prepared, presentable and positive during the interview, and MoDOT's requirement to have passed the Commercial Driver's License written test before applying for the job.

Then MoDOT Maintenance Superintendent Chris Sholl explained the process required to pass the written test for a CDL. "Study this immediately, go home and read it thoroughly, and take the test as soon as possible," he urged them, because the application deadline is at the end of July and applicants must have already passed the test to be called in for an interview. "You've only got nine days."

Roena Jefferson, Kansas City, was pleased that she already had a leg up on the competition. In her previous job as a school bus driver, she had earned her CDL. She, Patterson and several others peppered MoDOT presenters with questions. "How long does your resume stay on file after you apply?" Patterson asked. "Is there a base pay level?"

After the formal presentation, MoDOT leaders talked individually with prospective applicants, answering more questions and encouraging them to take a step toward a future at MoDOT. Patterson lingered, talking to several MoDOT employees, asking more questions. His interest was obvious, his enthusiasm evident. When he shook hands – several times – with Slaughter and several others, there was a bounce in his step as he walked away.



Summer Interns Build for the Future

For many students, summer is all about relaxing with friends and having fun. But for others, it's also about getting a solid

footing in a career centered on transportation construction and maintenance.

At least 20 students spent their summer at our Kansas City district offices doing just that. You’ve probably seen them in pre-construction meetings, roaming the hallways and even on job sites.

These students represented at least 10 different schools, including KU, KSU, UCM, ITT Tech and the majority coming from MST.

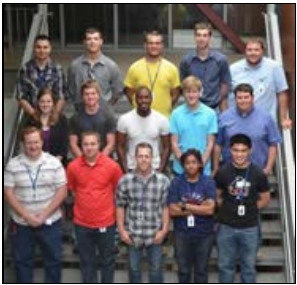
Many of them are majoring in civil engineering, construction management, automotive technology and electrical engineering.

As part of their internship, they were all given mentors this summer to help them get a better understanding of how things work in a job setting and to help them cope with the day-to-day rigors of having a job.

Another part of their internship included managing a project plan. Throughout the summer, each student had to help develop, monitor and find solutions to issues surrounding their project. They also had to photograph the beginning and ending stages of the project.

At the conclusion of their project plan, each student gave a power point presentation on what they did regarding the project, how they managed it and what they learned from it.

This summer’s internship wraps up the first week of August.



Crusha Receives Highest Safety Award

Recently at the Harrisonville Maintenance Building, co-workers, family and friends all gathered to honor MoDOT Maintenance Worker Anthony Crusha for his efforts in June to save the life of a motorist. Assistant District Engineer Randy Hartman and district Maintenance Engineer Jesse Skinner presented Crusha with a Meritorious Safety Award, the department’s highest honor, for his role in saving a motorist’s life.

“Anthony is just another great example of how our employees look out for others while out on the roads,” Hartman said. “We truly have some of the most selfless and courageous people working here as part of our MoDOT family.”

This is the fourth Meritorious Safety Award presented in the KC District this year, along with one Certificate of Appreciation.

On Thursday morning, June 12, Crusha was traveling north on Route 7 in pouring rain heading to work. As he passed Cass County Route TT, he noticed a car overturned in a ditch filling with water. He pulled over, stopped to check on the vehicle and was joined by a FedEx truck driver who had seen Crusha stop.

After jumping into the waist-high, rushing water, Crusha along with two other motorists who stopped were able to break through the victim’s window with a tire iron and pull him out. Within minutes, the victim was free and he joined his rescuers at the edge of the ditch to wait for emergency crews to arrive.

The victim’s family later came by MoDOT’s Cass County Maintenance Building to thank Anthony for saving him from drowning.



For more info

Melissa Black

Comments & Suggestions

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Central District

A Weekend Demolition in 30 Seconds

Check out the time-lapse video of the demolition of the Route B Bridge in Columbia, where an entire weekend of work is encapsulated in a little under 30 seconds. You can find the video to your right or at this link: <http://youtu.be/S7y4PIvv7h0>.

If you want to see how the replacement of the bridge is progressing, you can find out on the Central District website. A time-lapse camera captures bridge images every 10 minutes and can be found on the project webpage at: www.modot.org/central/major_projects/RouteBBridge.htm.

Bridge pictures, detours and information and videos about the bridge's innovative construction technique called geosynthetic reinforced soil can also be found on the site. This bridge-building method is faster and less expensive than traditional methods because it eliminates the need for driving costly and time-consuming bridge piles.

The Route B bridge over Business Loop 70 is closed for replacement until Sept. 15. The \$881,239 bridge is being built by APAC-Missouri.



Swanigan Enjoys Mission Trips to Kenya

Traveling to Kenya is more than just a bucket list item for Central District Roadside Manager Rand Swanigan; it's a labor of love.

Every summer since 2008, Swanigan has embarked on an 11-day mission trip to the House of Hope Orphanage in Naivasha, Kenya. The mission trip, organized by First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, is designed to build relationships, as well as complete projects for the orphanage housing 30 kids, ranging from ages 5-15.



"We really get to know the people of Naivasha and the children of the House of Hope Orphanage by going to the same area every year," said Swanigan. "We schedule our trip so that we arrive during the kids' time off from school. That gives us time to spend with the kids. It's really amazing to watch these children grow up over the years. By going to the same place and having that much time to spend with each other, it makes a big difference in our lives and theirs."

Swanigan typically travels to Kenya with five to eight people from the church. Eight days are typically spent at the orphanage with the children, while the other three days are spent on safari near Nairobi. His wife, a brother,

his son and his nephew have all traveled with him on the mission trip at one time or another. This year, Swanigan took six young people ages 17-19 to Kenya.

“It’s a real bucket list item,” said Swanigan of the safari. “You get to see some pretty amazing things on the Serengeti – the great migration of the wildebeests, lions, and the desert. The kids on the mission trip really enjoy it every year.”

Swanigan plans to go again next year to Kenya and the House of Hope Orphanage, and will once again take a full crew with him.

“The mission trip is already filling up for next year,” said Swanigan. “I love going each summer. Going and helping out at the orphanage and getting to know the children, it’s a reflection of one of my strongest beliefs and something that God has asked us to do. I’m just happy to have shared these trips with so many people.”

District Interns Gain Experience

This summer, 19 interns in the Central District are getting a real-world education about MoDOT and are receiving a hands-on experience of what it's like to work in the transportation and construction industry.

They have attended the 2014 Internship Conference held at Lincoln University, where they acquired knowledge about what employers look for in employees and how to get the most of out an internship. The interns have also have learned many other interesting aspects of MoDOT, as well as gaining valuable networking opportunities.



Ben Moore
Traffic Intern



Bradley Moderhack
Design Intern



Brennan Miller
Construction Intern



Chase Brackmann
Safety Intern



Cheyenne Stark
HR Intern



Derek Schoenberg
Construction Intern



Dustin Czeschin
GS Intern



Paul Henderson
Construction Intern



Jake Phelps
Construction Intern



Kelly Heckemeyer
Traffic Intern



Jerald Brown
Survey Intern



Joseph Jacobi
Construction Intern



Justin Reynolds
GS Intern



Matthew Johnson
GS Intern



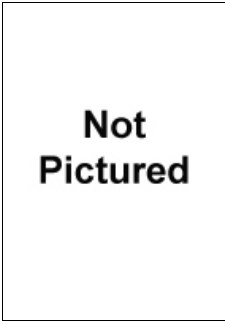
Nikki McCann
IS Intern



Robert Adams
Construction Intern



Tabitha Fiske
GS Intern



Addison Jobe
Construction Intern



Kambrin Hartsell
Survey Intern

For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Customer Relations Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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St. Louis Employees Give Generously to Community Once Again

by Shaunda White

This year, not once but twice, St. Louis employees made significant differences in the community by participating in food drives. Earlier this year in the statewide 100 Year Anniversary Food Drive, more than 900 pounds of canned food and non-perishables were collected. Last month the district collected and donated another 1,500 pounds of food to the local food pantries.

Every year, not just around the holidays, local food pantries fall low on food during the summer months when more kids are home from school. Last year, because of that fact, the Voice of St. Louis group decided to hold a food drive every year in the month of June.

The following organizations received the food donations:

- Loving Hearts Pantry, Franklin County
- Oasis Food Pantry, St. Charles County
- Peace Pantry, Jefferson County
- Feed My People Pantries, St. Louis City & County
- SL Area Food Bank, All Counties within the SL district



Members of the Voice of SL group collected more than 1500 pounds of food from the district food drive in June.

In combination of both food drives, approximately 1238 meals were provided to needy families.

“Even after the high participation during the 100 Year Anniversary Food drive, the Voice of St. Louis annual food drive was still a huge success. That speaks volumes on how considerate St. Louis employees are. This is an excellent way for us to give back to our communities and we plan to continue our annual food drive for years to come,” said Keith Harangozo, Voice of St. Louis team leader.

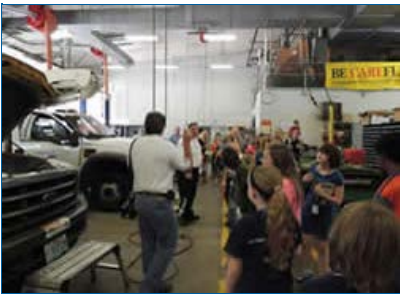
Bring Your Child to Work Event Focuses on Teaching

by Shaunda White

On July 17 more than 70 kids showed up at the Transportation Management Center in Chesterfield for a fun filled experience of learning what their parent does at MoDOT. Through participation and planned activities the children learned about the importance of PPE, building roads & bridges, construction, Barrel Bob and much more.



Nevzeta Hasanovic explains to her son how the Gateway Guide server helps keep the traffic flowing smoothly.



The children get an up close look at how the mechanic garage at Barrett Station operates.

Tom Evers helps his daughter with a 'Build A Bridge' activity.



Holly Lewis (left), motorist assist operator, teaches the kids how to operate the emergency lights on the MA trucks.

The kids get the opportunity to pick out their PPE and take pictures in them.



The children participate in an activity that teaches them the complexity of building roads.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

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Southwest District at Work



CAN I HONK THE HORN? – Springfield Intermediate Maintenance Worker Bob McClary (left) watches as a child explores the Southwest District's Emergency Response Vehicle during Big Rig Night at the Battlefield Mall in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)



WELCOMING VISITORS – Springfield Maintenance Crew Leaders Ben Arnall (left) and Randy Patterson meet with visitors from the ARC of the Ozarks during a recent tour. (Photo/Angela Eden)



HITTING THE TARGET – Joplin Senior Information Systems Technologist Mark Brown (upper right) and Computer Science Intern Geo Roa make sure the line-of-sight is clear during installation of a remote fuel monitoring antenna. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Branson Senior Construction Inspector Brian Todd discusses construction progress at the Farmer's Branch bridge on Route 65 near the Greene-Christian county line. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Stone's Corner Dual Lane Roundabout Nears Completion

by David Mitchell

The commute for Joplin area drivers through a notoriously congested intersection is already faster following the partial opening of a new dual lane roundabout at Route 171 and Route 43 in the Village of Airport Drive.

Following several weeks of construction to widen Demott Drive (Route 171) and Main Street (Route 43), the traffic signals were turned off and cones were set up to route traffic to the right – through a temporary single-lane configuration – on the evening of July 14.



A flagger helps direct traffic through the roundabout at Route 171/43 near Joplin the evening of July 11. (Photo/Ryan Dingman)

The consensus is it’s working better than expected.

“It’s going really good,” said Joplin Resident Engineer Jim Conley. “I think traffic is moving better than when the signals were active.”

The construction inspector for the project, Ryan Dingman, agreed.

“Traffic is moving through it very well,” he said.

Traffic back ups during morning and evening rush hours have been greatly reduced.

During peak traffic times, it could take drivers nearly five minutes and several cycles of the traffic signal to get through the intersection.

APAC-Missouri crews are working to get the second lane opened to traffic at the intersection known as Stone’s Corner.

“We chose to maintain the single lane roundabout for an extra week instead of using temporary (lane) markers,” said Assistant to the Resident Engineer Henry Bevier. “We believe it will help reduce confusion traveling through the roundabout which will result in safer conditions.”

The \$2.6 million project was added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the summer of 2011. That’s when MoDOT began working with local property owners to find a solution to congestion and safety problems at the intersection near the Joplin Regional Airport.

“It has been bad for at least 15 years,” said Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury. “We were constantly going out there tweaking signals, changing striping, but nothing worked.”

During meetings with property owners, MoDOT showed them aerial photos and listened to their ideas.

“We didn’t make everyone happy,” said Salisbury, “but this is where we ended up. We worked with businesses and residents to account for as many concerns as possible.”

The second lane of the roundabout is expected to be opened the week of July 28 when permanent striping is applied. After that, all that remains is to finish up landscaping and clean up.

Completion date for the project is August 28.

[See video about navigating roundabouts here.](#)



Joplin Construction Inspector Ryan Dingman (right) talks with a contractor employee about construction of the Route 171/43 roundabout near Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Tight Schedule for New Route MM/B Bridge at I-44 West of Springfield

by Angela Eden

Contractor crews working to replace the obsolete Greene County Route MM/B bridge over I-44 west of Springfield will have a little less than three months to replace the bridge with a new taller and wider structure. Crews have from August 8 until November 8 to replace the structure.

The process to replace the bridge begins with its demolition the weekend of August 8. The new bridge will be built where the old bridge once stood, so that means drivers will not be able to cross I-44 during construction.

Between Friday, Aug. 8, and Saturday, Aug. 9, I-44 will be closed to allow crews to remove the remains of the bridge. During that time, MoDOT will work with local law enforcement to route I-44 traffic over the ramps at the interchange and to other nearby state routes.

Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury said MoDOT has worked with nearby businesses to lessen the amount of time needed to close the bridge and the time of year that the bridge would be closed for reconstruction.

The Route MM/B bridge is located close to the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center and an industrial area that serves the city of Republic.

“We tried to find the least objectionable time of year (for the bridge closing) and find ways to reduce confusion about the temporary detours for their customers,” he said.

MoDOT has visited with nearby businesses and emergency responders. A public meeting was held July 15 so anyone in the community with questions about construction and the resulting traffic impacts could visit with MoDOT and contractor representatives.

“Before the public meeting, we passed out 50 fliers to businesses in the areas, talking with them about the traffic impacts,” said Springfield Resident Engineer Brad Gripka. His office will oversee the project. “I’ve answered several phone calls about the project. We’re getting the word out.”

The new bridge will be wider – one lane in each direction with designated turn lanes at the ramps. It also will be taller to meet modern interstate standards. The new span will be 17.5 feet tall.

Because the height of the bridge will be raised, the ramps at the interchange also will need to be raised. That will mean closing the ramps toward the end of September for up to 30 days.

To help traffic navigate around the bridge closing, a signed detour will be in place throughout the project which includes Route MM, Route 360, Route 60, Route 174, Route N, Route T and Route 266.

The entire project will be completed by December 15, 2014. The prime contractor on the project is L. Krupp Construction of Ellisville, doing the work for a low bid amount of \$1.8 million.

[Click here for more project information.](#)

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

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We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Team Spirit Conference Held in Cape Girardeau



High school students recently gathered at the 20th Annual Team Spirit Conference in Cape Girardeau to celebrate 20 years of saving lives. The participants attended numerous team building workshops July 20-22, as they developed their action plans to promote safe driving habits.

develop an Action Plan addressing traffic safety concerns identified at their school and in their community. We believe that local people solve local problems. Our goal is to educate and empower teens to make a difference and save lives.”

In addition, a special dinner celebration to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Team Spirit was held July 19 at the Water’s Edge in Gordonville, Mo. Dr. Leanna Depue, Director of MoDOT’s Traffic and Highway Safety Division, was on hand to recognize the program and those who have been instrumental in providing this training program for the past 20 years.

Residents to Discuss Improvements to Route M in Carter County

Carter County travelers can expect to see improvements to Route M in summer 2015. A meeting to discuss the project will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Carter County Courthouse, located at 105 Main Street in Van Buren, Mo.

"Visitors can stop-by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to discuss the details of the improvements with a member of the project team and provide their comments," said Project Manager Pete Berry.

High school students recently gathered at the 20th Annual Team Spirit Conference in Cape Girardeau to celebrate 20 years of saving lives and plan how to promote safe driving behaviors in the future.

The Team Spirit Leadership Training Conference is a peer-to-peer training program designed to empower youth to form an action plan to combat drinking and driving, speeding, lack of seat belt use, and texting and driving.

The conference included Keynote Speaker Dr. Tim Crowley, Director of Counseling at Northwest MO State University, as well as numerous workshops July 20-22.

“Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for youth under the age of 21,” said Sharee Galnore, Team Spirit Coordinator. “While at the training, each team will

develop an Action Plan addressing traffic safety concerns identified at their school and in their community. We believe that local people solve local problems. Our goal is to educate and empower teens to make a difference and save lives.”

The proposed project includes widening curves, replacing the one-lane bridge over Pike Creek with a 2-lane structure and adding paved shoulders from Route 60 to the end of state maintenance. The project will require right-of-way acquisition in some locations.

"The addition of 2-foot shoulders in this area will enhance safety for travelers," said Berry. "Sight distance will also be improved by widening two curves located north of the Pike Creek bridge, as well as flattening the slopes."

For more information, please contact Berry at (417) 469-6242, Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter at (573) 472-5294 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). An online meeting, including the meeting handout and an opportunity to comment, is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.



The new bridge over Pike Creek will look similar to the improvements completed in Wright County on Route H (pictured above). By upgrading the one-lane structure over Pike Creek to a 28-foot wide, two-lane bridge, agricultural traffic will be better accommodated and it will help improve safety for area motorists.

All Aboard!



The opening of three new train tracks at the Southeast Missouri Port Authority in Scott City also brought a new face, but familiar face to the train conductor's seat. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 15. During the celebration President of Motive Rail, Inc. Jerry Respondek also gave MoDOT Director Dave Nichols a taste of what it's like to be a conductor by letting him get behind the wheel of a train!

Letter Thanks Cagle, Gordon

To: Missouri Department of Transportation

I would like to commend two of your employees, Troy Cagle and Tim Gordon.

I am a 74-year-old widow and late afternoon Tuesday, July 17, 2014, I was traveling alone on I-55 and had a blow out right at the Caruthersville exit (MM4). I called 911 who notified the Highway Patrol. Meanwhile, one of your trucks came by to see if I needed help.

Mr. Cagle unloaded all the stuff I had in my trunk—got the “donut” out, which turned out to be no good. He said he had one at his home nearby that would work. So he called his co-worker. Mr. Gordon came and took the blown tire off while Mr. Cagle went to get the tire he had. They put the good tire on, put everything back in my trunk and I was ready to go again.

These men were so courteous & helpful. They really went “above & beyond” for me. Please say “thank you” to them again for me.

With MUCH appreciation,
JoAnn Bradley

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager

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